

NCA
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NEWS ANALYSIS 1-1843
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JIMMY CARTER AND THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS

ANNCR:

PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER HAS INDICATED THAT HE REGARDS A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A MAJOR GOAL OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT DISCUSSES MISTER CARTER'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE ADVICE HE HAS RECEIVED ON PERTINENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSCOW.

VOICE:

AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS WEEK PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER WAS ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. MISTER CARTER EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN A CONTINUATION AND EARLY COMPLETION OF THE TALKS ON A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAS RECEIVED THOROUGH BRIEFINGS ON THE SUBJECT AND WILL AGAIN DISCUSS IT WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WHEN THEY MEET ON SATURDAY.

MISTER CARTER EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS IN FAVOR OF FREEZING THE PRESENT NUMBER OF MISSILES AND WARHEADS ON BOTH SIDES AS WELL AS THE EXISTING QUALITATIVE PERFORMANCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AFTER THIS, HE WOULD WORK FOR LOWERING STEP BY STEP THE QUANTITY OF ATOMIC WEAPONS UNTIL, AT A MORE DISTANT DATE, DEPENDENCE ON ATOMIC WEAPONS CAN BE ENTIRELY REMOVED. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ALSO FAVORS A CESSATION OF PEACEFUL AND MILITARY NUCLEAR TESTING FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. AND HE WOULD INSIST ON A RELIABLE WAY OF CONFIRMING COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT, POSSIBLY INCLUDING ON-SITE INSPECTION.

MISTER CARTER REVEALED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SENT HIM COPIES OF BOTH A STATEMENT BY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV ON ATOMIC WEAPONS AND THE PROPOSALS FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO MADE IN A SPEECH

BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT CALLED THESE STATEMENTS "ENCOURAGING" AND SAID HE WOULD TRY TO BE FULLY QUALIFIED TO MAKE DECISIONS IN THIS MATTER BY THE TIME HE BECOMES PRESIDENT. BUT MISTER CARTER RESERVED, FOR HIMSELF THE RIGHT TO RENEGOTIATE ANY POINTS OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENT BEFORE HE COULD ACCEPT A FINAL SETTLEMENT. AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BEFORE EXPIRATION OF THE PRESENT SALT AGREEMENT NEXT FALL A NEW SALT AGREEMENT CAN BE CONCLUDED.

BEFORE THE PRESIDENT-ELECT EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS, A NUMBER OF PROMINENT MEMBERS OF FORMER ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE SPOKEN OUT ON THE SAME SUBJECT AND TENDERED SOMEWHAT VARIED ADVICE. A SO-CALLED "COMMITTEE ON THE PRESENT DANGER," AT A MEETING IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, WARNED THE NATION AGAINST WHAT IT CALLED "SOVIET EXPANSIONISM" AND CALLED FOR A MAJOR INCREASE IN THE AMERICAN DEFENSE EFFORT. THE SOVIET DRIVE FOR DOMINANCE, THE COMMITTEE STATED, BASED UPON AN UNPARALLELED MILITARY BUILDUP, REQUIRES TO BUILD ALLIANCES AND DETERRENCE AND "TO SEEK RELIABLE CONDITIONS OF PEACE WITH THE SOVIET UNION RATHER THAN AN ILLUSORY DETENTE." AMONG THE SPONSORS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE THE FORMER DEFENSE OFFICIALS PAUL NITZE AND DAVID PACKARD.

OVER THE WEEKEND ANOTHER STUDY GROUP, FORMED BY THE "UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES," A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE AIMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, RECOMMENDED TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THAT HE NOT ONLY SEEK A FREEZE IN AMERICAN AND SOVIET MILITARY SPENDING, BUT ALSO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNILATERAL U.S. REDUCTION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES FROM FIVE TO TEN PERCENT, WITH THE HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DO LIKEWISE. THE STUDY PANEL ARGUED THAT "THE CONTINUING SOVIET ADVOCACY OF BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS MAY AUGUR WELL FOR THE

POSSIBILITY OF ATTAINING AN AGREEMENT (TO LIMIT SPENDING) IF THE U.S. IS INTERESTED."

THIS SECOND GROUP INCLUDES FORMER DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CYRUS VANCE AND FORMER DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL PAUL WARNKE INASMUCH AS BOTH VANCE AND WARNKE HAVE BEEN ADVISING MISTER CARTER DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND MISTER VANCE HAS OFTEN BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE SECRETARY OF STATE IN A CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT THEIR VIEWS MAY BE SHARED BY THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. BUT MISTER CARTER HAS SOUGHT FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE ADVICE FROM A VERY WIDE SPECTRUM OF PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING ALSO PAUL NITZE AND JAMES SCHLESINGER, WITHOUT COMMITTING HIMSELF TO THEIR VIEWS.

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